

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction of the following inventions:

I. Claims 1-4 and 8-11 drawn to methods and apparatuses for multiplexing (N)(M), information-bearing signals classified in Class 398, Subclass 91.

II. Claims 5-7 and 12-14 drawn to methods and apparatuses for demultiplexing (N)(M), information-bearing signals classified in Class 398, Subclass 202.

In order to comply with the Examiner's requirement, Applicant provisionally elects to prosecute Group I directed to claims 1-4 and 8-11 for prosecution in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to non-elected claims 5-7 and 12-14 at a later date, if so desired. This requirement for a restriction is respectfully traversed for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicant traverses the Restriction Requirement on the basis that the Examiner has not established a substantial burden for requiring a restriction. In particular, Applicant believes that because each of the two inventions are classified in the same class that it would not be unduly burdensome on the Examiner to examine both inventions in the present application.

Applicant has also added new claims 15 and 16, which are essentially transceiver claims for multiplexing/demultiplexing (N)(M) information-bearing signals. Because new claims 15 and 16 include the elements of Group I and Group II, Applicant respectfully submits that it is inappropriate to separate them. Furthermore, because any search required for claims 15 and 16 will encompass all of the subject matter required to be searched for the claims in Groups I and II, no additional searches need be completed by the Examiner should all of the claims remain in a single application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests examination of all of the claims, 1-16.

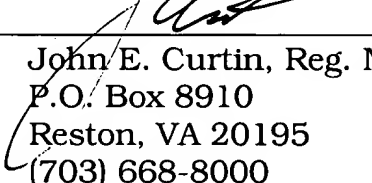
For all of the above stated reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding restriction/election requirement and favorable allowance of all claims in the instant application are earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact John E. Curtin at 703-668-8046 to discuss this application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Very truly yours,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, PLC

By 
John E. Curtin, Reg. No. 37,602
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 668-8000

JEC:psy